

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1735, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA- TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, I take issue with the irresponsible manner in which this authorization approaches funding of our National Defense. This bill uses the Overseas Contingency Operations fund to avoid congressionally mandated budget caps for fiscal year 2016—an approach that fails to provide the appropriate budget and funding structure that enables the Department of Defense to operate in the most effective and efficient manner over both the short-term and long-term planning horizons. This is Congress' most important role. We need to do this right.

In addition, this Conference Report prevents the responsible transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay and continues the existence of a detention facility which serves as propaganda for extremists and undermines our moral standing in the world. Many of the detainees who remain were cleared for transfer nearly six years ago by the Guantanamo Review Task Force—an interagency effort that included the Departments of Defense, Justice, State, and Homeland Security, as well as the Director of National Intelligence. The transfer restrictions interfere with the administration's executive role in responsibly closing this facility, wasting valuable resources, and making us less safe. This facility needs to be closed.

H.R. 1735 fails to heed the expert advice and request of numerous senior leaders in the Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force, and Department of the Army, who all repeatedly testified regarding the problem of sustaining excess facilities. I understand that many of my colleagues are concerned about potentially losing a military base in their district; however, we should not force the Defense Department to hold onto excess infrastructure and assets that are of diminishing military value. The best way to address this problem is to authorize a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and ensure our military bases are operating in the smartest, most efficient and effective manner. This bill prevents that from happening.

I recognize that passing the NDAA is described as a tradition, but tradition is an inadequate reason to support legislation that undermines the ability of our Defense leaders to properly manage the largest portion of our federal budget—the portion responsible for National Security—and effectively undermines the health and safety of the women and men who carry out that mission.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 1735—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

SYDNEY HUGHES TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2015*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sydney Hughes of Meeker, Colorado. She was recently awarded a National Inter-scholastic Athletic Administrators Association student athlete scholarship for her excellence on and off the field.

The National Athletic Administrators Association awards scholarships to high school students based on their academic achievement and athletic accomplishments. Ms. Hughes was selected to the second team All-state girls' basketball team for the 2014–2015 season and was the only player from the Third Congressional District of Colorado to hold such honor in division 2A girls' basketball. She was also selected to the Western Slope Grand Mesa All-Conference teams in volleyball and track and field, all while maintaining a 4.2 Grade Point Average throughout her high school career.

Excellence in academics and athletics provides a wealth of life-long advantages, not least because they instill qualities of discipline, perseverance, and teamwork that are hallmarks of future success. Ms. Hughes embodies all of these qualities and knows that her resiliency and dedication in high school athletics and academics will continue through college and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent inspiring high school students like Ms. Hughes and I wish her nothing but the best as she continues through life's challenges. She is a terrific role model for her peers and represents the best that the Third District has to offer.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR ASSIGNED TO LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT, CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2015*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of World War II's Italian Service Units, in particular, the 321st Quartermaster Battalion once assigned to Letterkenny Army Depot near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

During the summer of 1943, fierce fighting took place across North Africa and Sicily between Allied Forces and the Axis Powers. The

U.S. and its allies captured approximately 275,000 prisoners of war and sent nearly 1,250 Italian soldiers to the Letterkenny Army Depot in Pennsylvania. A few months later, an armistice was signed with Italy and the one-time foes transformed into Italian Service Units culminating as the 321st Quartermaster Battalion.

With sworn allegiance to the United States, they spent the next seventeen months ordering, stocking and shipping critical military items to our men and women serving in the Pacific and European Theaters of war. The rugged labor and staunch commitment of the 321st Quartermaster Battalion were integral to the Allies' eventual defeat of the Axis Powers. Additionally, the men once held prisoner now helped to construct the depot itself, including a chapel and bell tower resplendent in Tuscan style.

As we mark the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II, we also celebrate the repatriation of these distinctive soldiers and honor their contributions to both our home front and efforts abroad. They will forever remain entwined in our history and in our hearts.

METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2015*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Metropolitan State University of Denver, or MSU Denver, on its 50th anniversary. The extraordinary faculty and staff at MSU Denver have had an incredible impact on the lives of students in my district and on the Denver community as a whole.

Since its founding in 1965, MSU Denver has been known as a gateway to opportunity. The University opens its doors to students from all walks of life and provides rigorous academic coursework relevant to the Colorado economy. The University formed out of an idea for a new, different type of college, dedicated to supporting hard-working, scrappy students who might not otherwise have an opportunity to attend an institution of higher education. As a sign of its future success, MSU Denver enrolled double the number of students than anticipated when it first opened its doors on October 1, 1965.

Today, MSU Denver is Colorado's urban land-grant university, offering individualized, relevant bachelor's and select master's degrees to more undergraduate Coloradans than any other four-year university in the state. It has served as a leader in diverse enrollment among Colorado's four-year universities with 35 percent students of color and 32 percent first-generation students this year. The University has been a leader in educating students to think critically, solve problems, address community concerns, and meet Colorado's

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

workforce needs. Most of the school's 85,000 alumni have stayed within our state and continue to contribute to the economic and cultural vitality of Colorado.

I am not the only one that has recognized the value of the education MSU Denver provides to its students. Recently, the Military Times named MSU Denver the best college in the state for veterans. Further, MSU Denver strives to keep tuition affordable while providing a quality education. It has consistently been recognized in numerous rankings and articles for its affordability, its return on investment, and its incredible value in education. We are truly fortunate to have such a valuable resource in the First Congressional District.

For the last five decades, Metropolitan State University of Denver has transformed the lives of countless students, served as a courageous leader in higher education, and boldly advanced the well-being of communities throughout the State of Colorado. I congratulate each and every member of the MSU Denver community on this 50th anniversary. I wish MSU Denver continued success and growth for many years to come.

HONORING TERRY BOSTON, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF PJM INTERCONNECTION, LLC

### HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2015*

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Terry Boston, President and CEO of PJM Interconnection, LLC headquartered in Audubon, Pennsylvania.

Since 2008, Terry Boston has attentively served his role as the CEO by leading his team—600 of which are located in my district—and oversees the largest power grid in North America. As a result of his leadership, 51 million residents across 14 states, and many in PA-06, have access to reliable, affordable, and high quality electricity.

Mr. Boston and his team truly keep the lights on for millions, and for that we are grateful.

Mr. Boston has served a notable career as the President of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies, Inc., immediate past president of the GO 15, past chair of the North American Transmission Forum, and the Executive Vice President of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Further, Terry recently was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, one of the highest professional honors for an engineer.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Boston on his distinguished career and wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PAUL DEVROUX

### HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2015*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Paul S. Devroux, New Or-

leans native and leading architect in Washington, DC. Mr. Devroux passed away on March 22, 2010, at the age of 67.

Mr. Devroux was born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1942. He studied architecture at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where he graduated in 1966. Mr. Devroux was drafted into the United States Army and was promoted to Sergeant in the 6th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He first came to Washington, DC after his unit was deployed in the wake of riots after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the decades that followed, Mr. Devroux returned to the nation's capital and helped rebuild the blighted city. He founded Devroux + Purnell, an African-American architectural firm. In 1986, Mr. Devroux designed Frank D. Reeves Municipal Building which initiated the revitalization of the historic U Street neighborhood.

Mr. Devroux was a trailblazer in the architectural field in Washington, DC. The Pepco Headquarters became the first building in downtown Washington designed by an African-American architectural firm. Mr. Devroux also worked on many of the city's recent landmarks, including the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, the Verizon Center, the Nationals Stadium, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. His passion for his profession and his community spurred him to mentor young architectural students.

Mr. Devroux's legacy will forever be a part of the city and his dedication to community embodies the spirit of New Orleans. Stories like his will inspire generations of Americans to pursue their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Devroux, a beloved father, and example to aspiring entrepreneurs everywhere.

RECOGNIZING THE CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA NOON-TIME LIONS CLUB FOR 90 YEARS OF HISTORY AND SERVICE

### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2015*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Chambersburg Noontime Lions Club on the occasion of its 90th year of service to the Chambersburg community.

The Chambersburg Noontime Lions Club is one of the oldest of 46,000 Lions Club International chapters in operation today. Since the club was chartered in 1925, its members have included a diverse group of individuals united in their passion for community service. In that time, hundreds of men and women have lent their time and talents to improve the quality of life throughout the Chambersburg area. The Noontime Lions Club continually invests in the organizations that have the greatest access to areas of high need in the community, with resources going to Meals on Wheels, Easter Seals, Little League, Girl Scouts, and more.

Although they tackle a breadth of community concerns, they focus the majority of their efforts on eyesight preservation projects. As such, the Noontime Lions Club frequently offers eye exams, assists in the purchase of eyeglasses, and maintains active partnerships with organizations such as Leader Dogs for

the Blind and Beacon Lodge. As an example of their generosity, the Chambersburg Noontime Lions Club has previously assisted a local family by funding much needed surgery for their seeing-eye dog.

Though much has changed throughout Chambersburg in the past ninety years, the commitment of Noontime Lions Club has remained steadfast, serving the needs of the local community. I am grateful for their contributions throughout Pennsylvania's 9th district and would like to thank all who have helped the organization reach this momentous milestone of 90 consecutive years of service.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S 104TH NATIONAL DAY

### HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2015*

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on October 10. As we approach the commemoration of Taiwan's 104th National Day, it is appropriate that we take stock of the incredible progress Taiwan has made in recent decades.

This year marked the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, and I am reminded that American servicemen stood side by side with servicemen from the Republic of China. From General Stilwell to the Flying Tigers, our two countries have a shared experience from that epic struggle, and today we share a commitment to democracy, rule of law, and human rights. Taiwan has consolidated its transition to a full-fledged representative democracy. Its success serves as an example of what can be built based on these principles, and that is why it is so important to strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most important ways the U.S. can show support for Taiwan is to protect Taiwan's international space. As such, I support Taiwan's aspiration to be included in a second round of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement. Taiwan is a responsible nation which abides by international laws and norms of conduct, and seeks to foster peace and contribute to aid efforts in a challenging region of the world. It is the U.S.'s tenth largest trading partner and Los Angeles County's fourth largest, and an obvious candidate for inclusion in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Given all the two-way trade and business between the U.S. and Taiwan, I actively supported Taiwan's entry into the Visa Waiver Program and passed legislation to make Taiwan an observer to the International Civil Aviation Organization. I am now supporting legislation for Taiwan to join INTERPOL as an observer to increase the safety and efficiency of our people and commerce.

As Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I have made the U.S.-Taiwan relationship a top priority. Last March, I led a seven member bipartisan congressional delegation to Taipei to reaffirm the U.S.-Taiwan relationship. It was my third visit in as many years. I am also proud to represent one of the largest Taiwanese American communities in the country. The community serves as a bridge of cultural, familial, and business ties to Taiwan and is at the heart of U.S.-Taiwan relations.